

FY-67 Budget



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

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NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

16 November 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, National Reconnaissance Office

SUBJECT: National Reconnaissance Program (NRP)  
Budget for FY 67

1. I appreciate receiving the submission of the DNRO--recommended budget for fiscal year 1967 as prepared during Dr. McMillan's tenure. I fully realize that this was so in view of your short tenure to date in office. I also appreciate the time frame within which the budget needs to be firmed up, which also faces me with a very brief period to submit my comments to the Executive Committee. I am glad to note that in the future I may expect to have a fuller and earlier opportunity to conduct my examination and review of DNRO recommendations before we resolve the levels of the 1968 and subsequent NRO budgets.

2. In line with the budgetary situation facing the President in 1967, I generally accept the level of funds which are proposed in your memorandum of 4 November 1965.

3. One of the most important objectives, I believe, in developing the NRP is to provide for adequate funds to insure that existing programs and new concepts are appropriately and energetically pursued. I am concerned that this is not necessarily the case with respect to the provision of adequate funds for new concepts in the estimates for 1967 which have been forwarded to me.

4. With regard to satellite programs in which CIA has a direct responsibility or interest, I accept the line item [redacted] for CORONA, assuming this figure includes [redacted] for payload costs in FY 67. I am concerned,

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however, that a deferred decision on the Follow On Search System may require the purchase of more CORONAs.

5. With regard to the recommended budget of [redacted] I understand this figure should be adequate.

6. I note that [redacted] is recommended for Vulnerability. I believe that the Agency can make a valuable contribution in this field, specifically in developing threat models and performing associated analyses.

7. I am concerned that there is no explicit provision made in the budget [redacted] in the event the Executive Committee decides to move forward with this program. I understand that CIA has provided specific figures to your comptroller covering funds which would be required in 1966, as well as in the years FY 67 through FY 69. Contingent upon Executive Committee approval, this program is estimated to need funding in an amount of [redacted] for FY 67.

8. Further, I find no provision in the figures submitted for developmental studies and/or work on such projects as [redacted] and "seed corn money" for basic research and development of advanced photographic and imagery techniques.


9. With regard to programs in which CIA has a direct responsibility or interest, I am in general agreement with the [redacted] recommended for aircraft and support programs except for the fact that no funds are provided for either ISINGLASS or photo balloons.

10. ISINGLASS: The view expressed, "the requirement for this aircraft, particularly under NRO auspices, is in question," needs to be clarified. While many aspects of the ISINGLASS concept need examination, the forum for this and the related requirement determination seem to be clearly within the scope of the NRP. CIA advocates an effort be made to find up to [redacted] within existing FY 67 funds. This would be devoted to an airframe "Advanced Concept Evaluation", including design and operational technique trade-offs, cost effectiveness analyses, survivability analyses, alternative applications


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and program planning factors. This assumes that comparable engine efforts would be folded into on-going Air Force research and development programs.

11. Photo Balloons: The position taken in your paper, that this subject "is deferred to 1968 consideration", is difficult to evaluate. I believe that this collection method has not received the attention it warrants and suggest approximately  be included for an Advanced Concept Evaluation investigation.

12. Insofar as the recommended budget for non-CIA line items is concerned, I wish to make the following comments:

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c. It is noted that an advanced cartography satellite item is included for [redacted]. In the absence of a USIB requirement for such a system, it is requested that these funds be reprogrammed to a high priority program.

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d. It is difficult to comment on the Satellite Control item for [redacted] in the absence of definitive data on this activity. I do note that it is a large entry and should therefore be carefully examined by the Executive Committee.

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e. Applied Research is presumably a fund for supporting research development and engineering on new satellite reconnaissance systems, and I believe that the [redacted] should be divided evenly between CIA and the Air Force so as to support the vigorous on-going research on new systems envisioned in the NRO Agreement. The proposal for an NRO-funded RD and E activity in CIA on new systems such as [redacted] mentioned in paragraph 8 could be funded from this divided resource.

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f. The Advanced Development item for [redacted] should be placed squarely against the [redacted] need for FY 67 of [redacted] at this point. I believe that the technical and intelligence evaluation of this program has gone quite far enough to base such an allocation on; the question now is mainly how it shall be prosecuted and what additional roles it shall play. We are still several weeks short of a final decision on this program, but that decision will have been made long before the present budget is presented to Congress. Carrying the funds required for [redacted] against several vague line items seems a dangerous course in a tight budget year, and I believe that we should declare our probable intentions now and identify the necessary funds with this program.

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SIGNED

W. F. Raborn  
Director

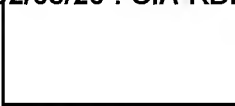
cc: Mr. Cyrus R. Vance  
Dr. Donald F. Hornig

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